

Urbana-Champaign, was the 2007 recipient of the Hadley School for the Blind's President's Service Award for exceptional work in raising awareness of the needs and abilities of blind and visually impaired people. She bridged cultural boundaries by teaching visually impaired Chinese students English language classes online.

I am proud to introduce this resolution that supports an institution that has, for almost 90 years, provided a valuable education for thousands of visually impaired individuals.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKER'S COMPENSATION FOR INJURED FEDERAL WORKERS ACT

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Improving Access to Worker's Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act." This legislation would ensure that our Federal workers are reimbursed for crucial healthcare and services that they receive.

In many rural areas, Physician Assistants (PAs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are the only full-time healthcare providers. Unfortunately, medical services and supplies provided by PAs and NPs are not covered under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. As such, claims signed by PAs and NPs are denied by the Department of Labor. In many cases injured workers have to travel long distances to receive care that is reimbursable, or use emergency rooms for non-emergency care.

PAs and NPs are legally regulated in all fifty States, the District of Columbia, and Guam. All fifty States also authorize physicians to delegate prescriptive privileges to the PAs they supervise, and authorize NPs to prescribe medications under their own signature.

The exclusion of PAs and NPs from the category of covered providers under the Federal Employee's Compensation Act limits patients' access to medical care, services, and supplies, as well as disrupts continuity of care, and creates unnecessary costs for the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

My bill, the "Improving Access to Worker's Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act" amends the Federal Employee's Compensation Act to recognize PAs, NPs and several other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses as covered providers. In doing so, Federal law is aligned with the overwhelming majority of State workers' compensation programs, and ensures that injured workers, especially those who live in rural areas, receive the care and treatment they need.

This bill was introduced by former Representative Charles Norwood (R-GA) in the 108th and 109th Congresses and enjoyed broad bipartisan support. It has also been introduced in the Senate by Senators EDWARD KENNEDY (D-MA), SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME) and JOHNNY ISAKSON (R-GA).

I would like to thank the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for their help on this legislation and for their support of the bill. I am also happy that my colleague on the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman MARK SOUDER from Indiana has joined me in supporting this legislation. I look forward to working with him and others to garner addi-

tional bipartisan support so we can quickly move this bill through the House.

I am proud to be involved in this effort to ensure our Federal workers, especially those living in rural America, have access to critical healthcare providers and services. Thank you Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### COMMEMORATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representatives BUYER, SHIMKUS, TAYLOR, and over 243 original cosponsors, to introduce a resolution to congratulate the United States Army Reserve on its 100th Anniversary, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008.

The resolution also commemorates the contributions of Army Reserve veterans who have helped to ensure that the United States' vital national security interests are protected and defended in times of war and peace.

I am very gratified by the outpouring of bipartisan support that this resolution has received. It is indicative of the high regard and esteem in which the Army Reserve is held among Members of Congress and the American public.

As a former soldier in the Army Reserve, I know the historic and decisive role it played along with the U.S. Army in promoting integration and the cause of individual dignity.

As a current member of the Subcommittee on Defense as well as the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been extremely impressed by the level of commitment that Army Reserve soldiers bring to their work and to their high degree of professionalism. They truly are "twice the citizen," as Winston Churchill once remarked.

Today, the U.S. Army Reserve is composed of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers. They have an active presence in 1,100 communities across the nation, contributing military values, important job skills, and economic support. They are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and sons or daughters. They are our neighbors, our friends and acquaintances, and our colleagues at work. These soldiers can be called up at any time to serve our nation and they must be trained and prepared to respond at a moment's notice.

Here in the U.S. House of Representatives, 24 Members including myself have been privileged to serve as Army Reserve soldiers. In fact, 2 of the lead sponsors of this resolution, Representatives STEVE BUYER of Indiana and JOHN SHIMKUS of Illinois, still serve in the Army Reserve.

As this resolution notes, the role of today's Army Reserve soldier has expanded and changed dramatically since President Theodore Roosevelt first requested that Congress establish a reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status. On April 23, 1908, the Congress responded to the president's request by establishing a permanent reserve corps of trained medical officers. The modest corps represented the humble start of what is today a multi-faceted operational and strategic force.

The duties have since expanded such that they have become an integral component of

any active U.S. Army mission. They have answered the call of duty in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Panama, the Gulf War, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo. In addition, nearly 25,000 Army Reserve soldiers are currently deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and 18 other countries.

Through October 31, 2007, 102 Army Reserve soldiers had borne the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. We dedicate this resolution to their memory and to the memory of all the Reserve soldiers who fought and died to defend our nation's freedoms throughout our history.

We dedicate this resolution to our living heroes as well—to those men and women who continue their service to our nation in the U.S. Army Reserve today.

Madam Speaker, I again thank my colleagues who are original cosponsors for their extraordinary support for this resolution. I urge our remaining colleagues to join with us in support of this resolution, which is intended to ensure that the first 100 years of the Army Reserve are appropriately commended and that the second 100 years of the Army Reserve are fittingly commenced.

#### CONGRATULATING DR. GEORGE CROZIER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Dr. George Crozier on the occasion of his retirement from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

For the past 30 years, Dr. Crozier has served as the executive director of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama's marine research facility. Serving Alabama's 21 four-year colleges and universities, the Sea Lab has provided Alabama students with the opportunity to study marine creatures and habitats. George has been with the Lab since its inception in the 1970s, helping to build the Sea Lab to national prominence.

In addition to being the director of the Sea Lab, Dr. Crozier is also an associate professor of marine science at the University of South Alabama and an associate professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He serves as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board and administers the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.

In recognition of his outstanding work in the field of marine science, George Crozier has received numerous awards, including the Walter B. Jones Award for "Coastal Steward of the Year" from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He was the recipient of the Alabama Academy of Science's Wright A. Gardner Award in 2000. In 2007, George was awarded Mobile United's "Green" Award, or Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1993, he was named "Conservation Educator of the Year" by the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and the Alabama Science Teachers Association named him the 1991 Friend of Science.

Dr. Crozier is an acknowledged expert in the coastal management issues, and as a longtime steward of natural resources, he promoted the creation of Alabama's Forever Wild and currently serves as a board member. He helped to found the Alabama Coastal Area

Management Plan, served as the initial director of Alabama Sea Grant, and served as a member of the board of directors of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium. In addition, he serves on the board of the Alabama Coastal Foundation, grassroots, inc., Smart Coast, Inc., and Robinson Island Estuary Foundation. George also serves on the board of national advisers for Coastal States Stewardship Foundation, and he is a member of the Urban Land Institute.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. I know his family, his friends, and the many students who have benefited from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab join me in extending thanks for his many years of distinguished service. On behalf of a grateful community and state, I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BEN SOLOMON  
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING YEARS  
OF SERVICE

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker and members of Congress, I rise to ask you to join me in recognizing the excellent service of someone many of the residents of the Longworth Building are familiar with—Mr. Ben Solomon, store manager in the House of Representatives.

For the residents of Longworth, Mr. Solomon was the quiet, unassuming friend who greeted us when we made a pit-stop to the store for an afternoon snack to get us through the rest of the day.

Mr. Solomon and his loyal co-workers, Jason and Veronica, took extra care to stock the store with the favorites of those who frequented the establishment.

I ask you to join me in extending our sincerest gratitude to Mr. Ben Solomon for his first-class service.

We are saying farewell on Friday, December 14, 2007 to a peaceful man, one who has not only dedicated his extraordinary service to us, but to his wife, three children and family members in Ethiopia.

Born on June 16, 1965 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Mr. Solomon made his journey to the United States of America in 1982 for his quest to study and work to support his family.

Mr. Solomon studied engineering at the District of Columbia and the University of Maryland, College Park.

As one of his regular customers, I am honored to take this time to celebrate Mr. Solomon for his kind spirit and twenty years of dedication to guest services.

One of his employees said it best, when she said that Mr. Solomon will truly be remembered as “A person who gets along with everyone.”

Madam Speaker and members of Congress I congratulate Mr. Ben Solomon for his outstanding service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING QUALITY CABINETS/  
MASCO BUILDER CABINET  
GROUP ON OSHA STAR AWARD

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Quality Cabinets/Masco Builder Cabinet Group (MBCG) on earning the prestigious Star Award for the Volunteer Protection Program from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for its outstanding safety performance and processes.

Quality Cabinets was founded by Charles Ladd in 1969 with three employees in a 7,500 square foot building in Duncanville, Texas. The company grew to add a location in Kentucky and another Texas facility in Cedar Hill. The Texas locations have a total of 1,259 employees. The company now is based in Adrian, Michigan and is part of the MBCG.

The OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) encourages employers to participate and improve their safety program to very high levels. Achieving the VPP Star award is the pinnacle in recognition for participants that exceed OSHA standards. Quality Cabinets are the first Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturing Company to achieve this exceptional feat.

Programs implemented in the Texas Quality Cabinets facilities include Management Leadership and Employee Involvement, Worksites Analysis for Safety Hazards, Prevent and Control Hazards, and Safety Knowledge training.

I am proud to represent Quality Cabinets/Masco Builder Cabinet Group for their outstanding efforts of both its management and employees on achieving exemplary occupational safety and health standards. The VPP Star Award is truly representative of Quality Cabinets dedication and commitment to safety.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PRO-  
GRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT  
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4299, which revises and extends the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) for 15 years. I commend Chairman FRANK and Congressman CAPUANO for their fine work in shepherding this critical legislation to the House floor. This act reminds us that the true measure of our homeland's preparedness against terrorist attack is our ability to prepare for such an attack comprehensively and that includes the insurance industry which is an essential part of our economic landscape.

Mr. Speaker, the horrendous events of September 11, 2001, tested our nation's ability to defend itself in many ways. Along with the human and emotional toll these events took on all Americans, we noticed that not only our government but also our private industries were not sufficiently prepared to deal with the

implications of a terrorist attack. Terrorist activity since September 1, 2001, has come to prove that our enemies are becoming more agile and technologically sophisticated. There is no doubt in my mind that terrorists are targeting not only our fellow citizens but also our critical infrastructure including our financial services sector, since they are determined to undermine the United States in the most fundamental of ways.

History has shown that Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations will explicitly direct their efforts against American citizens and property in an effort to inflict economic harm. According to a RAND policy brief, “there is reason to believe that al Qaeda is interested in continuing its efforts to disrupt the fiscal base of the United States by attacking its borders.” If al Qaeda and others are determined to strike our financial targets, public policymakers need to examine possible financial mechanisms to mitigate these effects.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4299 is a critical and timely legislative response to the fact that after the terrorist attacks of September 11, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their policies. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their insurance policies. As a result, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act as a three year temporary program in 2002. The act created a federal backstop to protect against terrorism related losses. In 2005, the measure was extended until 2007. TRIA is now set to expire at the end of this year, unless we today extend the law.

Since its enactment, TRIA has ensured the availability of affordable terrorism risk insurance in the marketplace and thereby fostered continued urban development and real estate development in the United States. While the TRIA program has successfully kept terrorism insurance affordable, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets' most recent report concluded that a private market for terrorism reinsurance is virtually nonexistent—especially with regard to nuclear biological chemical and radiological (NBCR) acts of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4299 because it provides federal backstop for private terrorism insurance. One of the strongest features of the bill is that it comes at no cost to the American taxpayer unless there is a terrorist attack.

The security of our country can not be ensured unless we make certain that the U.S. government works hand-in-hand with the private sector to confront terrorist threats. H.R. 4299 exemplifies this idea.

The bill before us is based on the idea that it is in the best interest of our country that the federal government coordinate with insurers to provide financial compensation to insured parties for losses from acts of terrorism. It will contribute to the stabilization of the United States economy at a time of national crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I also support this bill because I believe that extending TRIA for 15 years will contribute to the long-term stability of two critical American industries, the construction and real estate industries. The long-term stability it provides will allow both industries to engage in large-scale building projects in areas considered high-risk for terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, terrorist attacks target our country as a whole and not individual cities or